



**NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONS:**

# **HOPI KATSINAS**

Exhibit Dates: April 17 – Sept. 12, 2004 • Exhibit Place: REDLANDS  
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## **HOPI KATSINAS**

Dozens of Katsinas (kachinas) from the collections of the San Bernardino County Museum will be on exhibit during “Native American Traditions: Hopi Katsinas,” in the museum’s Fisk Gallery from April 17 through September 12, 2004. The exhibit is free with museum general admission.

Native American groups are very different from one another. Traditional cultures, beliefs, and life styles depend in part upon the natural environment in which the groups lived. “Hopi Katsinas” is presented in the context of the Hopi tradition and how this tradition compares with those of other local, regional, and North American tribes.

In the world of the Hopi, everything has a spiritual form and a visible form. The spiritual aspect of Katsinas is similar to a European culture’s saints and angels. Katsinas carry messages to Hopi deities and intercede to bring rain, fertility, and abundance. In their visible form, men wear masks and costumes to represent Katsinas in ceremonies. Katsinas are also represented by “dolls” that are used to help Hopi children recognize the more than 260 Katsinas in the Hopi belief system.

Katsina dolls are not toys. Called *tihu* by the Hopi, they are educational miniatures hung from walls and rafters and put on stands to help children become familiar with the appearance, name, form, and power that reside in the Katsinas. The San Bernardino County Museum has about 100 Katsinas in their collections. All of them were made for the tourist trade and are preserved in the collections as ethnographic objects and works of art.

To place the Hopi Katsinas in a wider context of Native American cultures, the exhibit includes maps, text, and objects that illustrate a variety of North American Indian traditions: Northwest Indians that lived along the rugged coast of the Pacific; Plateau Indians from the northern part of eastern

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**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM**

2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands CA 92374 • (909) 307-2669 • [www.sbcountymuseum.org](http://www.sbcountymuseum.org)



## **HOPI KATSINAS (CONT.)**

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Oregon and in eastern Washington; Great Basin Indians from deserts of Nevada, eastern California, southern Idaho, western Utah, and northwest Arizona; California Indians; Southwest Indians from the deserts of Arizona and New Mexico; Plains Indians from the Midwest; Woodland Indians from the Northeast; and Indians from the Southeast. More specific comparisons are drawn between the Serrano Indians from the San Bernardino Mountains of California, the Hopi from the desert mesas of Arizona, and the Sioux from the central plains.

“North America has a wide variety of environments, from Arctic tundra to the swamps of the Everglades,” said Curator of Anthropology Adella Schroth. “As with any culture, ways of life develop in response to specific environments. The Serrano, for example, were hunters and gatherers that took advantage of plants as they became ready to harvest. They did not need permanent houses since they were continually on the move. The Hopi were farmers with permanent residences. The Sioux followed the buffalo from North Dakota to northern Texas because buffalo were their chief source of food, clothing, and shelter. Such differences in food, climate, and sustenance made for very diverse social structures and belief systems. In this exhibit, we hope visitors will not only enjoy the Hopi Katsinas as works of art, but will understand how they relate to a specific culture.”

The San Bernardino County Museum is at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays and holiday Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 (adult), \$5 (student or senior), and \$4 (child aged 5 to 12). Children under 5 and Museum Association members are admitted free. Parking is free, and the facility is handicapped-accessible. Lunch and snacks are available at the museum’s Garden Café between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. “Native American Traditions: Hopi Katsinas” is sponsored in part by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. For more information, visit [www.sbcountymuseum.org](http://www.sbcountymuseum.org) or call (909) 307-2669. • • •